GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:201
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000
ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS DUE TO COAL
PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems caused by excessive use of coal in some States;

(b) if so, whether any efforts are being made for easing environmental problems caused by the use of coal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (T.R. BAALU)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The steps taken by the Government for control of environmental pollution caused by use of coal include the following :-

- A notification was issued requiring thermal power plants located beyond 1000 kilometers from the pit head or those located in urban areas or sensitive or critically polluted areas irrespective of the distance from the pit head to use coal not having ash content more than 34 per cent with effect from 1.6.2001.

- Environmental standards have been notified for coal mining, steel and cement plants under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

- Environmental standards for other industries using coal in the boilers have also been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

- Major coal user industries are being monitored regularly by the Central Pollution Control Board / State Pollution Control Boards and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

- National Environmental standards and code of practice for coal mines have been notified

- A notification was issued to protect the environment, conserve top soil and prevent the dumping and disposal of fly ash discharged from coal or lignite based thermal power plants on land.